

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 106908 TOSEC 110580

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 2359 ACTION SECSTATE JIDDA 2 MAY QUOTE

S A C R E T AMMAN 2359

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR JO US

SUBJECT: HAWK MISSILES- CROWN PRINCE FAHD LETTER TO KING HUSSEIN
OF APRIL 29

REF: AMMAN 2351

1. THIS CABLE FORWARDS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION
OF APRIL 29 LETTER FROM SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD TO
KING HUSSEIN IN REPLY TO HUSSEIN-FAHD LETTER OF
APRIL 20 FORWARDED BY REFTEL

2. BEGIN TEXT

IN THE NAME OF GOD THE COMPASSIONATE AND MERCIFUL
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN CBN TELAL.
KING OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
YOUR MAJESTY.

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I RECEIVED YOUR MAJESTY'S LETTER OF 20 RABAI AL THANI

1396 CORRESPONDING TO 20 APRIL 1976 AD BROUGHT TO ME BY HIS EXCELLENCY YOUR MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA WHICH INFORMED ME THAT YOUR MAJESTY CONSIDERS THE QUESTION OF THE SALE OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AS NULL AND VOID AND (WHICH INFORMED ME OF) YOUR MAJESTY'S DESIRE TO TRANSFER THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO FOR THIS PURPOSE.

AFTER HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID LOOKED AT THE CONTENTS OF YOUR MAJESTY'S LETTER HE INSTRUCTED ME CLEARLY TO ADVISE YOU OF OUR POSITION IN THIS MATTER:

YOUR MAJESTY, MY BROTHER:

IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RECALL TO MIND A SUMMARY OF THE STAGES OF THE DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HIS SUBJECT BASED ON WHAT I HAVE SEEN OF THE MINUTES OF THE INTERVIEWS (MUQAABILAAT) WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN SAUDI AND JORDANIAN OFFICIALS BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN.

1. JORDAN ASKED SAUDI ARABIA TO FINANCE A JORDANIAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE PURCHASED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE CONDITIONS THAT PAYMENTS IN THIS TRANSACTION BE MADE DIRECTLY 35233, -7\$8 -4-78- -, \$ -348:-. AS WAS CONTAINED IN YOUR MAJESTY'S COMMUNIQUE DATED 22 RABBI AL AWWAL (NOTE MARCH 24, 1976) WHICH WAS SENT TO ALL THE RANKS IN THE JORDANIANS ARMED FORCES, PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES AND SECURITY SERVICES.

2. THE SAUDI SIDE INQUIRED FROM JORDANIAN OFFICIALS ABOUT THE PRICE OF THIS SYSTEM AND IT WAS ANSWERED THAT THE PRICE WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS DIVIDED (MUQASSATA) OVER TEN YEARS.

3. THE SAUDI SIDE EXPRESSED ITS AGREEMENT TO
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FINANCE THIS TRANSACTION AND ITS READINESS TO PAY ITS PRICE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE AMOUNT AND FORMER CONDITIONS AND IT REQUESTED JORDAN TO ATTEMPT TO LOWER THE PRICE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND TO INFORM (SAUDI ARABIA) AS TO THE RESULT.

4. LENGTHY DEBATES SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK PLACE IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS CONCERNING SELLING THIS SYSTEM

TO JORDAN. (THESE DEBATES) LASTED A LONG TIME AND ULTIMATELY ENDED IN THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEAL.

5. SAUDI ARABIA WAS SURPROSED BY THE RIASING OF THE TRANACTIONS PRICE FROM 300 MILLION DOLLARS TO 792 MILLION DOLLARS.

6. SAUDI ARABIA INFORMED JORDAN OF ITS UNWILLINGSNESS (ADAM ISTA DAAD) TO FINANCE THIS DEAL AT ITS LATER PRICE AS WELL AS ITS CONFIRMATION OF ITS FORMER COMMITEENT.

7. JORDAN WISHED TO PURCHASE ITS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM A SOURCE OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

8. SAUDI ARABIA LEFT TO JORDAN THE CHOICE OF A SOURCE WHICH ITS (JORDA) CONSIDERED TO BE IN ITS INTEREST PROVIDED THAT SAUDI ARABIA COULD CARRY OUT ITS FORMER COMMITTEMENT. FURTHER IT IS AXIOMATIC THAT SAUDI ARABIA MUST KNOW THE SOURCE IN ADVANCE SINCE FOR ITS PART IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO FINANCE THE TRANSTION DIRECTLY(RA'SAN AL MUBAALIG) IT IS UNDERSTOOD MOREOVER THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN CERTAIN THAT THIS SOURCE WOULD BE ONE OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES.

HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOUR MAJESTY THAT ALTHOUGH YOUR MAJESTY'S LSTTER INDICATES THAT THE DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED(ASBAHAT FII HUKM AL MUNTAHI) WE STILL ARE BOUND BY OUR FIRST COMMITTEMENT AND THE STIPULATION OF THE SUME OF 300 MILLION DOLLARS
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DIVED OVER TEN YEARS TO ASSURE THE PURCHASE OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYTEM PROVIDED THIS SYSTEM BE PURCHASED FROM ONE OF THE WESTERN NATIONS. THIS IS BECAUSE WE SENSE THE DEPTH OF THE OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT THE CONFRONTATION STATES AND (THE FACT THAT) GOD IS BEHIND OUR ENDEAVOR.

WITH MY GREETINGS AND HEARTFELT BEST WISHES TO YOUR MAJESTY WISHING YOU CONTINUING GOOD HEALTH HAPPINESS AND XELICITATIONS MAY GOD PRESERVE AND KEEP YOU (SIGNED) FADH BIN ABD AL AZIZ HOUUE OS SAKD. RIYADH 30 RABI AL THANI 1396 HEJIA, CORRESPONDING TO 29 APRIL 1976. END TEXT
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